

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-25

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P 041601Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260708

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THIRD-
COUNTRY TRANSFER

REFERENCE: A) TEHRAN 10573; B) STATE 249548

AMBASSADOR FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

1. I HAVE REVIEWED OUR POSITION IN LIGHT OF THE UNDER-
STANDABLE CONCERNS WHICH PROMPTED YOUR MESSAGE. I WISH I
COULD BE MORE HELPFUL TO YOU THAN I CAN AT THIS MOMENT, BUT
I HAVE ASSURED MYSELF THAT OUR POLICY IS CONSISTENT WITH
THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION AND WITH USG INTERESTS.

2. FOLLOWING A STUDY BY THE UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE
OF THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CO-PRODUCTION IN IRAN, I
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RECOMMENDED TO THE PRESIDENT LAST MARCH THAT "ALL IRANIAN

SALES OF CO-PRODUCED ITEMS TO THIRD COUNTRIES SHOULD REQUIRE PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.... THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS REQUIREMENT DURING NEGOTIATION OF A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL." THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 2.

WHILE I LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW YOU HANDLE THIS IN YOUR FORTHCOMING CONVERSATION WITH THE SHAH, WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT HE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS OUR POLICY.

3. OUR RESPONSE TO THE SHAH'S REQUEST FOR A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT (REF B) DID INDEED DWELL AT SOME LENGTH ON THE LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE ASPECTS, BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE WE BELIEVED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THE SHAH A FULL AND CLEAR ACCOUNT OF THE STRICTURES WHICH GOVERN OUR ACTIONS. IT WOULD BE MISLEADING--OR WORSE--FOR US TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO MAKE COMMITMENTS WHICH IN FACT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY EXIST AT SOME FUTURE DATE. AS I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, IF IRAN DECIDES TO GO AHEAD ON ONE OR MORE CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS, IT WILL BE A NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE IT OBTAINS ITEMS OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT FIRST CALL WILL BE FOR ADDITIONS TO IRAN'S OWN INVENTORY, AND THIS WILL PROLONG THE TIME BEFORE EXPORT POSSIBILITIES COULD BECOME A MATTER OF SERIOUS IMPORTANCE.

4. AS YOU KNOW, THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS OF U.S.-CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT CAN BE AUTHORIZED ONLY TO THOSE COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE, OURSELVES, ARE PREPARED DIRECTLY TO TRANSFER OR SELL THE SAME EQUIPMENT. WE CANNOT PRETEND TO DETERMINE AT THIS TIME WHAT POLICIES WILL BE APPLICABLE AT SOME UNDETERMINED PERIOD SEVERAL YEARS HENCE IN THIS REGARD. SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO EGYPT, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF OUR FUTURE MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP IS UNDER STUDY. DEPENDING ON THE CONCLUSIONS, CAREFUL CONSULTATION WITH THE HILL MAY BE NECESSARY. THIS IS A SPECIAL AND ADDITIONAL REASON WHY WE COULD NOT AT THIS POINT MAKE COMMITMENTS TO IRAN REGARDING ITS FUTURE SALES

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TO EGYPT OF CO-PRODUCED EQUIPMENT.

5. WHEN YOU SEE THE SHAH ON THIS MATTER, IN THE COURSE OF EXPLAINING THE LEGAL ASPECTS TO HIM I SUGGEST THAT YOU STRESS THAT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT OUR REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT UNDULY ONEROUS. YOU COULD ASSURE HIM OF EXDTIOUS HANDLING WHEN SPECIFIC CASES ARE BEFORE US FOR

CONSIDERATION. YOU COULD ADD THAT IN LIGHT OF OUR
PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONS AND THE MUTUALITY OF MANY
OF OUR INTERESTS, CONCERNS AND POLITICAL/STRATEGIC PER-
CEPTIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IN MOST INSTANCES SALES/
TRANSFERS FROM IRAN WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.
BELIEVE YOU SHOULD GO NO FURTHER THAN THAT AND SHOULD NOT
REQUEST FROM THE GOI DATA AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 OF YOUR
MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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